

# ARCHIVE: NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

## APRIL 2020 EVENTS

### **Navigating the Crisis & Beyond: Perspectives for Leaders in South Asia**

On April 11, 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the India Research Center, in partnership with Harvard Business Publishing hosted a webinar on navigating the crisis. HBS Professors Amy C. Edmondson, Ananth Raman, Herman B. ("Dutch") Leonard, and Robert S. Kaplan shared a vocabulary, framework and toolkit for business leaders as they navigate the COVID-19 crisis in South Asia. Professor Das Narayandas facilitated a conversation with Amit Chandra, Managing Director of Bain Capital; Sanjiv Mehta (AMP '04), Chairman & MD Hindustan Unilever Ltd; Ravi Venkatesan (MBA '92), Founder, Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship and Suneeta Reddy (OPM 28, 1999), Managing Director Apollo Hospitals. Over 4,000 participants attended virtually, including a mix of business leaders, alumni, HBR readers, and professionals from over 58 countries. A video recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

## APRIL 2020 EVENTS

### **HBS Club of India: Alumni on Air Webinar Series**

In April 2020, the India Research Center debuted its series of monthly webinars co-hosted by the HBS Club of India. As a part of this series, alumni from South Asia share their perspectives on the current crisis, business frameworks, and leadership styles. Among those featured include Rishad Premji (MBA 2005), Chairman of Wipro Ltd., a global company supporting COVID-19 relief efforts in India, Ameera Shah (OPM 42, 2012), Promoter and Managing Director of Metropolis Healthcare, a diagnostics business in India's health care sector and Ajay Bijli (OPM 28, 1999), Chairman & MD of PVR Cinemas, one of India's largest multiplex cinema exhibition companies. The series ran episodes through June 2020.

## JANUARY 2020 MBA EXPERIENCE

### **The Global Classroom: Student Immersion in China, Hong Kong, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka**

As part of the elective curriculum within the MBA program, students have the opportunity in their second year to enrol in an Immersive Field Course – or "IFC." These courses are driven by faculty research and industry connections, and provide students with an opportunity to get out of the classroom and put the skills they have learned to practice in the field. Typically, about 200 students participate in IFCs annually. In January 2020, Professors Willy Shih and Meg Rithmire led 45 students through China, Myanmar and Sri Lanka for 10 days. The course looked to understand the dynamics of international trade through a study of the China Belt Road Initiative. During their stay in Sri Lanka, students visited the Colombo and Hambantota Ports, a logistics factory, and participated in a symposium with government officials, think tanks, and business leaders to discuss Chinese investments in Sri Lanka.

## DECEMBER 2019 EVENTS

### **A Discussion with Professor John Kim**

In December 2019, Professor John Kim addressed a select group of educators and relevant stakeholders on the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP). A joint project between the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Harvard Business School (HBS), PELP uses the art and science of management to help public schools and school systems in the United States improve student performance. Professor Kim discussed the possibility of creating a similar program for school leaders in India and South Asia.

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November 2019 ALUMNI NEWS

## **Alumni Tour in Bangladesh**

The HBS Club of India in collaboration with the IRC convened an alumni study tour to Bangladesh last November with 15 alumni in an effort to forge a deeper understanding of the region. HBS South Asia Advisory Board Member, Munir Merali (AMP), facilitated this immersion. Over a two-and-a-half-day visit, the group met government officials, business leaders, alumni, entrepreneurs and leaders in the creative economy. The study tour proved to be a unique convening where alumni from India, GCC, and Bangladesh were able to connect, understand varied perspectives, and identify opportunities to collaborate and build deeper bonds of friendship.

NOVEMBER 2019 EVENTS

## **HBS India Impact Series: Conversations with Dr. Devi P. Shetty and Mr. Amit Chandra**

The India Research Center's HBS India Impact Series features discussions with change makers who are using their leadership, networks, and problem-solving skills to address fundamental challenges facing society. Last November, a conversation with cardiologist Dr. Devi P. Shetty and philanthropist Amit Chandra showcased how the power of purpose could make the seemingly impossible happen. Dr. Shetty shared his perspective on the goal of medical care - to not turn anyone in need of treatment away for want of funds. He stressed the importance of developing scalable, affordable and high quality business models through process and technology innovations. Mr. Chandra shared vignettes of his journey leveraging networks to take action to impact millions of lives.

SEPTEMBER 2019 EVENTS

## **HBS India Impact Series: Conversations with Dr. Y.K. Hamied and Dr. Armida Fernandez**

The India Research Center's HBS India Impact Series features discussions with change makers who are using their leadership, networks, and problem-solving skills to address fundamental challenges facing society. This August, a conversation with Dr. Y.K. Hamied, Non-Executive Chairperson of the pharmaceuticals company Cipla Ltd., focused on his pioneering efforts to develop affordable drugs for HIV patients across the world. Dr. Hamied's innovative anti-AIDS treatment pushed the envelope in patent law. In another conversation this September, Dr. Armida Fernandez, Founder of SNEHA discussed her journey supporting under-served low-income communities in India and improving the quality of public health services. Nitin Nayar, MBA 2002, who serves on SNEHA's board, shared how alumni can help leverage their skills and expertise to drive social change and widen their sphere of impact.

AUGUST 2019 MBA EXPERIENCE

## **MBA Voices: A Indian Student's Experience—Meet Prineeta Kulkarni, MBA Class of 2020**

MBA Voices is Harvard Business School's admissions blog. A collection of community perspectives on the blog provide prospective students with insight into life at HBS. In this interview, Indian student, Prineeta Kulkarni, MBA 2020, explains her journey to become one of the applicants admitted to the school.

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## JULY 2019 EVENTS

### **A Discussion with Professor Mihir A. Desai: How Finance Works**

This July in Mumbai, Professor Mihir A. Desai, Mizuho Financial Group Professor of Finance shared insights from his new book, *How Finance Works*. In an interactive and engaging session with alumni and friends of the School, Professor Desai tackled a range of topics including the sources of economic return, why the financial system is so complex, how value is created, measured, and maximized and the importance of capital markets in helping companies grow.

## MAY 2019 MBA EXPERIENCE

### **Neel Ghose (MBA 2019) Wins Dean's Award for Service to the School and Society**

Neel Ghose (MBA 2019) is the founder of The Robin Hood Army, a zero-funds organization that distributes surplus food from restaurants to the hungry in developing countries and has served 14.8 million meals across 133 cities. Ghose brought his commitment to feeding the hungry to HBS, and during his time in the MBA program has increased his sectionmates' awareness of the problem of global hunger. With the help of his classmates, the Robin Hood Army has been introduced into new countries including Indonesia, Nigeria, and Chile. Through his work with the Robin Hood Army and Robin Hood Academy, and through his actions on campus to bring awareness to the hunger problem in all nations, Ghose has been an inspirational role model while at HBS and impacted the quality of life for many communities, making him a 2019 Dean's Award winner.

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019 EVENTS

### **Driving Digital Strategy Discussion with Professor Sunil Gupta**

This January and February Professor **Sunil Gupta**, Edward W. Carter Professor of Business Administration, toured Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai, presenting his research on the use of digital technology and its impact on consumer behavior and firm strategy. Alumni, business leaders, and entrepreneurs attended events where he discussed his recent book "**Driving Digital Strategy, A Guide to Reimagining your Business.**" His book provides a framework for companies to reimagine their business. Referring to numerous case studies and his own research, Professor Gupta demonstrated how the rules of business have changed and why it is no longer enough for firms to be better or cheaper to gain competitive advantage. He described how these new rules make it essential for companies to re-examine four fundamental aspects of their business to thrive in the digital era – their strategy, value chain, customer engagement, and organization structure.

## JANUARY 2019 EVENTS

### **Entrepreneurs Unplugged – Conversation with Sanjiv Bajaj (MBA 1997)**

This January, alumni and a few select entrepreneurs congregated in Pune for a discussion with Sanjiv Bajaj as a part of the India Research Center's Entrepreneurs Unplugged Series. The focus of the series is to forge a deeper understanding of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in South Asia. The series tracks the journeys of entrepreneurs who have attempted to launch new business models as they push scale and manage various stakeholders including investors, employees, customers and regulators. During the conversation, Sanjiv Bajaj (MBA '97),

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Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv, one of India's flagship non-bank finance companies, shared insights on business strategy and the use of technology, data mining, AI and machine intelligence to drive innovation and long-term value creation. He also shared his perspective on developing a culture of accountability and entrepreneurship within a corporate set up.

## SEPTEMBER 2018 CLUB NEWS

### **Exploring the Future of Work for Women**

The HBS India Research Center, the **HBS Club of India** and the **HBS Gender Initiative** hosted their first joint conference devoted to exploring what the future holds for working women. The Future of Work: Accelerating Gender Parity Conference, held on September 21, 2018 in Mumbai, was an invitation-only opportunity for 200 CEOs and senior managers to convene with experts and scholars. Professors **Robin J. Ely**, Diane Doerge Wilson Professor of Business Administration and Faculty Chair of the HBS Gender Initiative and **Joseph B. Fuller** Professor of General Management who co-leads the School's **Managing the Future of Work** project presented their research. **Professor Lakshmi Ramarajan**, Anna Spangler Nelson and Thomas C. Nelson Associate Professor of Business Administration, gave a presentation on gender identity.

## MAY 2018 ALUMNI NEWS

### **Creating Opportunity for Indian Entrepreneurs**

Harsh Bhargava (MBA 1977) was visiting his hometown of Jaipur, India, in 1999 when tragedy struck. In the midst of an unemployment crisis during the Kargil War, the government advertised for 120 open positions in the nearby town of Jhunjhunu. More than 100,000 young men showed up looking for work. The government was not prepared to handle the number of job-seekers, resulting in matters becoming out of control and police killing three young men. The incident ate at Bhargava, and led to an idea: Why not create job creators instead of job seekers through an entrepreneurship training program at the grassroots level? Inspired, Bhargava founded I Create, an organization that teaches entrepreneurship skills to students at the secondary level and also works with disadvantaged women, youth, and discharged soldiers to provide comprehensive training and mentorship.

## NOVEMBER 2017 ALUMNI NEWS

### **HBS Alum to Expand Company's Automotive Operations to Detroit**

Anand Mahindra (MBA 1981) has plans to expand the automotive operations of the Mumbai-based company, Mahindra Group, into Detroit in early 2018. The company will begin producing off-road recreational and work vehicles that will contribute to their current U.S. production of tractors.

## SEPTEMBER 2017 ALUMNI NEWS

### **An HBS alumnus and his City of Dreams - Colombo, Sri Lanka**

With a clear vision and big dreams for change, HBS graduate Nayana Mawilanda (MBA 2005) shares his plans for turning Sri Lanka's capital city of Colombo into a megapolis that resembles

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other major international port cities. His master plans for transformation include housing, transportation, water, and environmental priorities, and he talks about how his unexpected career path led him to have the skills he needs to make these big changes.